



Iowa Lincoln Highway Association

Spring 2021 Newsletter | Volume 26, No. 1

In Loving Memory of Cathie Nichols

1951-2020

by Jan Gammon

Cathie Nichols, a member of the Lincoln Highway Association since 2005, served as the Clinton County Consul after she retired from the nursing profession in 2015. From July 2018 to April 2019, she served as the president of the Iowa chapter of the Lincoln Highway Association. She had a passion for history and the Lincoln Highway. Helping at the LHA's National Conference in Denison, Iowa in 2017 she sported red-white-and-blue toenails complete with the Lincoln Highway "L" painted on both big toes.

Cathie also loved her 1964 Ford Galaxie and drove it in LHA Motor Tours and often to chapter meetings. The Wapsi bridges were a passionate project for her as she met with property owners, the Clinton County engineer, and local historical and civic groups. She had a can-do attitude and never shied away from a project or a challenge.

In April 2019, she was given a stage I pancreatic cancer diagnosis and resigned as Iowa president, with the plan to return in one year. She met this cancer challenge head-on, maintaining a positive attitude. After surgery, the diagnosis got bumped to stage III. Unwavering, she endured chemotherapy and its side effects.

Cathie attended the Iowa ILHA meeting in October 2019. But in 2020 she and her husband, Norm, were in a car accident that totaled the beloved Galaxie. We thought things were on the mend for both, but learned that Cathie passed away in a hospice house in Bettendorf on December 17, 2020.

The entire LHA organization and the Iowa Chapter will miss her bright smile, leadership, and positivity. Our sympathies go to Cathie's husband, Norm, her daughters and extended family.



President's Corner

by Mary Helen Preston

As I write this, we are currently in a Polar Vortex after a blizzard closed the Lincoln Highway in Benton County for a day with more snow and below zero temperatures in the forecast for the next several days. I'm so ready for spring to arrive and hopefully by the time our newsletter is published we will have daffodils blooming and travelers venturing out across Iowa along the Lincoln Highway.

I took part in Iowa Tourism's Town Hall meeting (thank you Kathy Dirks for the information) in January, which they shared information on what we could expect in 2021. Here are some of the highlights so we have a sense of what to expect.

*"President's Corner"
Continued On Page 3*



www.iowalincolnhighway.com

ILHA Officers, Board of Directors, County Consuls, and Staff

| President | Phone | Email | County Consul | Phone | Email |
|--|----------------|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Mary Helen Preston | (816) 868-3336 | mary@prestonsstation.com | Clinton | | |
| Vice President | | | Open Postion | | |
| Dale Higgins | (515) 370-0637 | higginsd@iowatelecom.net | Cedar | | |
| Secretary | | | Joe Goodlove | (563) 349-6622 | joeiowaLH30@fbcom.net |
| Jan Gammon | (515) 232-0048 | lincolnhighway@prrcd.org | Linn | | |
| Treasurer | | | Rex Martin | | rex221b@gmail.com |
| Joyce Ausberger | (515) 386-4521 | bobjoyce@netins.net | Benton | | |
| State Director | | | Mike Kelly | (319) 472-5183 | videoptraitsofiowa@gmail.com |
| Dean Parr | (319) 366-0552 | drparr51@gmail.com | Tama | | |
| | | | Allan Richards | (641) 484-4000 | allanmaxrichards@aol.com |
| Membership Coordinator | | | Marshall | | |
| Dean Parr | (319) 366-0552 | drparr51@gmail.com | Harlan Quick | (641) 483-2440 | hmquick@partnercom.net |
| Noble Sojourner | | | Story | | |
| Lyell Henry | | disorg@mchsi.com | Carroll Stokesbary | | carrbary@netins.net |
| Artist in Residence | | | Boone | | |
| John Fitzsimmons | (515) 432-3697 | seanfitz50@gmail.com | John Fitzsimmons | (515) 432-3697 | seanfitz50@gmail.com |
| Newsletter Layout & Webmaster | | | Greene | | |
| Joshua Benda | | jbenda@prrcd.org | Joyce Ausberger | (515) 386-4521 | bobjoyce@netins.net |
| Director Emeritus | | | Dale Higgins | (515) 370-0637 | higginsd@iowatelecom.net |
| Bob Ausberger | (515) 386-4521 | bobjoyce@netins.net | Carroll | | |
| Byway Coordinator & Newsletter Editor | | | Barbara Hackfort | (712) 792-1512 | bjhackfort@westianet.net |
| Janice Gammon | (515) 232-0048 | lincolnhighway@prrcd.org | Crawford | | |
| | | | Open Position | | |
| | | | Harrison | | |
| | | | Kathy Dirks | (712) 642-2114 | kdirks@harrisoncountyparks.org |
| | | | Pottawattamie | | |
| | | | Eddy Hedegaard | | ejskj@msn.com |

Mission Statement

The Lincoln Highway Association shall identify, preserve, interpret and improve access to the Lincoln Highway and its associated sites, pursue the appropriate measures to prevent further deterioration, destruction or alteration of the remaining sections, publicize and seek public awareness of its goals and activities for preserving and developing the LH, facilitate research about the LH, and publish a magazine for articles and news of activity relevant to the LH, work with local communities and businesses to promote the LH as a tourism destination, and be exclusively charitable and educational within the meaning of the Internal Revenue Code.

The Facts about That!

Fun & interesting facts about this great state!

You've no doubt heard the phrase "the greatest thing since sliced bread"—well, we have Iowa to thank for those precut loaves. Otto Frederick Rohwedder was apparently fed up with trying to cram hand-sliced pieces of bread into a toaster. So in 1912, he invented a device that would cut bread into consistently-sized slices. Unfortunately, Rohwedder's fantastic invention was destroyed in a fire before it could be unleashed on the world. It took him some time to refine and rebuild, so sliced bread wasn't commercially available until 1928.



<https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/71550/25-amazing-facts-about-iowa>

President's Corner (cont.)

by Mary Helen Preston

- The Iowa Scenic Byway Passport program kicked off early January. As of January 25, there were over 2,000 travelers signed up with 430 check-ins in 100 locations. I am hopeful this initial interest will translate to increased travelers along the Lincoln Highway during our peak "season" (which is June - August).
- Tourism is a proven economic driver for Iowa, generating over \$9 billion in 2019.
- Did you know, in 2019 travelers spent an estimated \$25.38 million a day in Iowa! Our tourism budget ranks 42nd in the Nation.
- A "traveling party" spends an average of \$401.31 daily in Iowa. This breaks down to:
 - Entertainment - 17%
 - Lodging - 32%
 - Transportation - 16%
 - Food - 18%
 - Shopping - 17%
- Day trips showed a slight increase in 2020 from 2019 with rural travelers from 42.2% to 46.7%. With overnight trips jumping from 39.1% to 49.3%. These statistics are promising for 2021, speculating Iowans will continue to take day trips.

Each of us know Iowa has so much to offer tourists. I'm not saying promoting Iowa, our communities, the Lincoln Highway and other local attractions solely falls on our shoulders but we need to do our part. I'm certainly not satisfied with being 42nd in the nation for tourism. We have room for growth. 2021 is the year for us to heavily promote the Lincoln Highway along with our communities and other local attractions.

I realize we don't have the budget for large scale marketing so how do we promote and get involved? I know there are social media avenues where we can promote. Hopefully COVID will be (somewhat) under control and social distancing will be lifted so we can participate in community events so we have a presence, but are there other ways we can promote and get involved?

As I began mentioning October 2020, our Association needs to plan for our future and I believe 2021 can be an important year for us. We have great opportunities to increase awareness of the Lincoln Highway with the Iowa Scenic Byway Passport program but there are other areas we need to concentrate on. As a reminder, here are some of the things for consideration as an Association (yes, these are repeated from my Winter column):

- We have decreasing membership and declining bank account - how do we increase those?
How do we engage our membership to become involved?
- How do we capture our historians' knowledge? This concerns me since we've lost a number of historians recently - Bob Owens and Dick Schild to name a couple.
- How do we build a strong cornerstone for the Association?
- How do we recruit for membership - individuals, businesses?
- How do we get our communities to become active in the Association?

We as an Association need to come together to address our future in 2021 and beyond. Let's make 2021 great! Thank you for your continued commitment to the Lincoln Highway - Past, Present and Future.



Let's Celebrate! Now a National Scenic Byway!

by Jan Gammon

We are now a National Scenic Byway! The Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) long-awaited announcement came the morning of February 16, 2021. Iowa's Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway now joins Nebraska's Lincoln Highway Scenic and Historic Byway (also newly designated) and the previously designated Illinois Lincoln Highway Byway to make over 1,000 miles of continuous National Scenic Byways covering 3 states.

The routes in Indiana, Ohio, and parts of Pennsylvania are currently state byways. The routes in New York, New Jersey, West Virginia, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, and California are not recognized by their Department of Transportation as a byway, but maybe someday?

From the FHWA announcement: "In 2020, 63 nomination applications were submitted. Forty-nine byways in 28 states were designated, including 34 National Scenic Byways and 15 All-American Roads. This determination takes into account evidence of intrinsic quality(s); demonstration of national or regional significance; overall visitor's experience; and demonstration of long-term sustainability.

All newly designated byways will be featured in a commemorative 2021 National Scenic Byways Program Designations Booklet, and will be added to the America's Byways web-site. For a list of the All-American Roads and National Scenic Byways designated in 2021, please view the 2021 Summary of Designated Byways."

So along with this announcement came a flurry of spreading the word through press releases, social media posts, as well as answering well-wish messages from fellow Iowans, fellow Iowa Byways, and people from across the nation.

Word seemed to spread quickly! We thank you for all of the support the Lincoln Highway Association and the Iowa chapter have given the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway over the years.



Back When The Original IDOT Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway Signs Were Installed.

L-R: Bob and Joyce Ausberger, Allan Richards, and Jeff Benson

The Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway will be presenting "Remembering the Historic 1919 Transcontinental Army Convoy" on Tuesday, April 6th at 6:00 PM Central Time. You will need Zoom on your computer to view the presentation. Tickets are \$12. Contact Janice Gammon for link to purchase tickets and with any questions you may have!

Cedar County Report

by Joe Goodlove, Cedar Count Consul

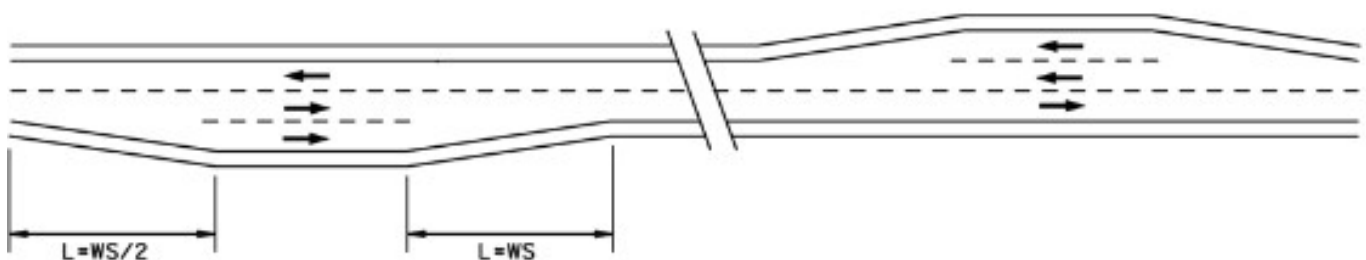
This past fall, the Highway 30 Coalition (4 lane advocates) asked Cedar County Board of Supervisors to contribute \$150 (or \$175) a month to the coalition for “support.” The board turned them down.

In January, it was reported the IDOT opted for a Super-2 design from Mt. Vernon to Mechanicsville. (Nothing was reported beyond Mechanicsville although it could have been missed by those reporting.) That choice apparently comes down to expedient economy. Easements and purchases, they cited a four-lane requires 478 acres through this corridor; where Super-2 only needs 120 acres.

In reaction to the Super-2 decision the Highway 30 Coalition responded by saying, “if the state will not consider some version of a four-lane” (my way) then “leave it alone.” Their opinion is a Super-2 does nothing to improve traffic flow through the county.

Clarence City Council now favors by-passing rather than going through downtown. The city believes if people want to drive to Clarence, they will make the effort. It’s not in the best interest to bisect Clarence main street businesses by taking away downtown parking to accommodate faster traffic while risking pedestrian street-crossing incidents.

No timeline was reported.



Super 2 Design From A DOT Manual

The James H. Andrew Railroad Museum and History Center

at the Boone and Scenic Valley Railroad

November 1 through May 22

Monday - Friday 10 am - 4 pm

Saturday Noon - 4 pm

Closed Sunday

May 23 through October 31

Sunday - Thursday 10 am - 4 pm

Friday and Saturday 10 am - 5 pm



www.iowarailwaymuseum.org

Visit one of Iowa's most interesting railroad collections

The Reed-Niland Café should be up and running “any day” now.
The Colo Motel is open for business.

New email:
nilandcafeandmotel@gmail.com

Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway Update:

by Jan Gammon, Byway Coordinator

The Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway is excited to be a National Scenic Byway and looks forward to the future (*see page four*).

We are in the midst of a passport program with Travel Iowa. The program rolled out January 5th, which is not typically a travel-heavy month. In the first month, nearly 2600 people signed up for the program and checked in 706 times at 125 different sites along the 13 participating Byways in Iowa. Since the initial location sign-up we have added Reed-Niland Corner and will be adding Mahanay Bell Tower, Grand Junction ILHA Museum and Garden, and Nevada's Lincoln and Jefferson Highways Heritage Park.

Each Byway is to offer a prize basket for one lucky winner to win each month. Our month is April and our prize package so far includes a 2 for 1 night stay at Mitzi's Place in Woodbine, a bottle of wine, 4-pack of Alluvial beer, Iowa roasted coffee from Marion, 2 admissions to the Sawmill Museum, \$50 in Clarence Bucks, and an assortment of smaller prizes including koozies, bottle openers, insulated bag, and pens. We are trying to add to the package daily, so if your business wants to donate something, let Jan Gammon know.

We are also working on redesigning the Info Guide we created back in 2016. It will be reorganized by community rather than by intrinsic quality. We received a grant from Iowa Tourism and will be selling ads for the cash match to the project. If you have a business or know of a business that would like to advertise in the brochure, just let Jan Gammon (jgammon@prrcd.org) or Mike Kellner (mkellner@prrcd.org) know.

Our largest current project is the 10 interpretive panels we started under a generous grant from the Union Pacific Railroad. We have 2 completed- one for Preston's Station in Belle Plaine and one for the M and M Divide near Arcadia. Those are waiting for spring and will host unveiling ceremonies after installation. We are currently working on ones for the Bowstring Bridge in Yellow Smoke Park, the Eureka Bridge near Jefferson, Woodbine's brick street, and Marshall County's courthouse.

We are awaiting word on a grant from the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) to see if we receive funding as a match for the 4 panels in Clinton. If the DAR funding comes through, we are anticipating adding panels in Ames and Vail to the overall project. Each panel will have an unveiling ceremony after installation.

Meet the New Guy

by Joshua Benda

Hello! My name is Joshua Benda, the newest Graphic Designer at Prairie Rivers of Iowa. I am a young, ambitious content creator specializing in taking a comprehensive approach to all my projects.

I grew up in Toledo, IA, with my older brother, older sister, and younger sister. My father worked as a farmer, and my mother homeschooled us four kids--she is a saint for sure. I graduated from high school in 2012, then moved to Hawaii for a few years working in Film while also working for a mission organization. I was privileged to travel to India during that time, which gave me the love of travel; had hoped to do more, but thanks to COVID, I'm grounded for a few more months.

I currently living in Ames and enjoy photography, videography, graphic design, Broadway shows (Hamilton for the win!) and creative writing.

I look forward to working on this newsletter with you all!

-Joshua B

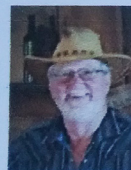


Higgi's Veterans Campground
Secure RV Spots for Rent in Grand Jet. IA
604 Railroad. Grand Jet. IA
2 Blocks South. 1 Block West of Casey's
Electric. Water. Sewer
Call 515-370-0637 for more info



Dale Higgins Professional Auction Co.

Est. 1973



Licensed Real Estate Agent

603 Railroad St.
Grand Junction Iowa 50107
515-370-0637

www.dalehigginsauction.com
higginsd@iowatelecom.net



**The next ILHA meeting will be held virtually through ZOOM on
Saturday, April 10th at 9:30 AM.**

President Mary Helen Preston will set up the April 10th meeting and a link will be emailed out to consuls and officers. If you are not a consul or officer and wish to join the meeting, please notify Mary Helen and she will get the link out to you. Let Jan Gammon or Mary Helen know if you need help downloading ZOOM onto your computer. You will need a camera on your computer or a webcam to join the video. Please have everything setup and tested prior to the meeting.

If you are not able to join via ZOOM on your computer, you may also join by phone. Let Mary Helen know and she can get you the phone number and code to use when calling. This is not a free call, so it may count against your phone minutes or as a long-distance call.

Upcoming Iowa LHA Meetings

**July 10th, 2021: Possibly Zoom, will
make call closer to date.**

FIRST CLASS

Place
Stamp
Here

Iowa Lincoln Highway Association
P.O. Box 224
Grand Junction, Iowa 50107

